



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Montana WIC Program ♦ 1400 Broadway, Cogswell Bldg. C305♦ Helena, MT 59602-2951

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Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

March 10, 2014

Dear Healthcare Provider,

As you know, Montana WIC began a phase-out of Abbott's Similac Total Comfort, Similac for Spit-Up and Similac Sensitive at the beginning of this year. Since that time, we have received more guidance from USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) and from Abbott Nutrition, which has led to a temporary change in this policy.

Montana WIC will allow issuance of Similac Total Comfort, Similac for Spit Up and Similac Sensitive as an option for all infants at least until October 1, 2014. ***These formulas will still need a valid prescription for issuance beyond April 1, 2014 as they will be changing to the 19 kcal/oz. version, which will no longer meet the definition of a standard formula.*** We ask that you use the Similac-specific prescription form for ONLY these formulas, and the standard prescription form for all other medical, or "exempt", formulas and nutritional products. We will continue to evaluate this policy and keep you informed if we decide to extend issuance beyond October 1, 2014.

Montana WIC is committed to encouraging breastfeeding as the optimal infant feeding method. When exclusive breastfeeding is not possible, WIC staff will continue to advise participants about the standard formula options, which remain Similac Advance (stage 1) and Enfamil Prosobee. Participants will be encouraged to try a standard formula before seeking medical advice and a prescription for alternate formulas.

Thank you for your continued support of the Montana WIC program. Please do not hesitate to contact your local clinic or the state office should you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Joan Bowshe, WIC Director

Nutrition Section

Family and Community Health Bureau